

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a slip-resistant ~~texture on an aquatic-component~~, comprising the steps of:

positioning at least a portion of ~~said~~ a stainless steel aquatic component in a work machine, said aquatic component having a first surface a second surface which is opposite said first surface; ~~and~~

contacting said second surface with a work tool so as to form a plurality of protrusions in said first surface.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
~~said portion of said aquatic component is constructed of metal, and~~
said contacting step includes the step of forming said plurality of protrusions in said ~~metal~~ stainless steel.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein including:
~~said metal includes stainless steel, and~~
~~said contacting step includes the step of forming said plurality of protrusions in said stainless steel~~ shaping the aquatic component for use in a pool environment.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said contacting step includes the step of forming said plurality of protrusions in a decorative pattern.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said contacting step includes the step of punching said second surface with a punch so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said first surface.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
said aquatic component includes a gutter having an upper gutter surface and a lower gutter surface, and

said contacting step includes the step of punching said lower gutter surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper gutter surface.

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7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said aquatic component includes a drain cover having an upper cover surface and a lower cover surface, and

said contacting step includes the step of punching said lower cover surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper cover surface.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said aquatic component includes a pool step for supporting a user,

said pool step has an upper step surface and a lower step surface, and

said contacting step includes the step of punching said lower step surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper step surface.

9. (currently amended) A slip-resistant article, comprising:

~~an a stainless steel~~ aquatic component having a first surface a second surface which is opposite said first surface, said aquatic component having ~~being prepared by a process comprising the steps of~~

(i) protrusions formed on said first surface by positioning at least a portion of said aquatic component in a work machine work tool, and

(ii) contacting indentations formed in said second surface with a the work tool so as to form a plurality of protrusions in said first surface.

10. (currently amended) The article of claim 9, wherein ~~said portion of~~ said aquatic component is ~~constructed of metal~~ shaped for use in a pool environment.

11 11. (cancel).

11 12. (original) The article of claim 9, wherein said plurality of protrusions are arranged in a decorative pattern on said first surface.

12 13. (original) The article of claim 9, wherein said process for preparing said aquatic component further comprises the step of punching said second surface with a punch so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said first surface.

13 14. (original) The article of claim 9, wherein:
said aquatic component includes a gutter having an upper gutter surface and a lower gutter surface, and

said process for preparing said aquatic component further comprises the step of punching said lower gutter surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper gutter surface.

14 15. (original) The article of claim 9, wherein:
said aquatic component includes a drain cover having an upper cover surface and a lower cover surface, and

said process for preparing said aquatic component further comprises the step of punching said lower cover surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper cover surface.

15 16. (original) The article of claim 9, wherein:
said aquatic component includes a pool step for supporting a user,
said pool step has an upper step surface and a lower step surface, and
said process for preparing said aquatic component further comprises the step of punching said lower step surface so as to form said plurality of protrusions in said upper step surface.

16 17. (currently amended) An aquatic component, comprising:
a stainless steel body having a first surface and a second surface, wherein
(i) said first surface has a plurality of protrusions defined therein which define a slip-resistant texture,
(ii) said second surface has a plurality of indentations defined therein,
and

(iii) each of said plurality of indentations corresponds with one of said plurality of protrusions.

17 18. (currently amended) The aquatic component of claim 17, wherein said body is constructed of metal shaped for use in a pool environment.

19. (cancel).

18 20. (original) The aquatic component of claim 17, wherein said plurality of protrusions are arranged in a decorative pattern on said first surface.

10 21. (original) The aquatic component of claim ~~17~~¹⁶, wherein said plurality of protrusions and said plurality of indentations are punched into said body.

20 22. (original) The aquatic component of claim ~~17~~¹⁶, wherein said body is constructed of plastic.

21 23. (new) A slip-resistant article for use in a pool environment, comprising:
a stainless steel aquatic component having a first surface and a second surface
which is opposite said first surface, the component being shaped for use in a pool
environment,

AI and a plurality of protrusions on said first surface,

a plurality of indentations in said second surface at locations corresponding
with the locations of the plurality of protrusions on said first surface.

21 24. (new) The article of claim ~~23~~²¹, wherein said component includes stainless steel
of a thickness of about 12-gauge.

21 25. (new) The article of claim ~~23~~²¹, wherein said protrusions and indentations are
formed by punching.
